

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Laying apparatus for cables, lines, or conductors or suchlike (16), comprising at least a hydraulic circuit (11) provided with a variable delivery feed pump (17) and with a motor (21) connected to said feed pump (17) and able to drive laying means (13) for said cables, lines, or conductors and ~~suchlike~~ (16), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said hydraulic circuit (11) comprises detection means (32, 33) ~~able to detect~~ for measuring the value of pressure of the oil inside said hydraulic circuit (11) and to compare it the measured pressure value with a pre-determined pressure value, and valve means (35, 37) connected to said detection means (32, 33) and able to reduce the delivery of said feed pump (17) in the event that the pressure measured exceeds said pre-determined pressure value.

2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said detection means and said valve means are of the electronic type and comprise respectively a sensor (32) associated with said hydraulic circuit (11) and connected to electronic processing means (33), and an electro-valve (35) governed by said electronic processing means (33) and able to be selectively driven to act on the command members (22) of said feed pump (17) ~~in order~~ to reduce the delivery thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said sensor (32) is able to detect an electric signal, such as tension, current or frequency, correlated to the pressure value of the oil in the hydraulic circuit (11), and said electronic processing means (33) are able to compare the value of said electric signal with a pre-determined value, ~~in order~~ to determine whether the pressure threshold has been exceeded or not.

4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said detection means and said valve means are of the hydraulic type and comprise at least a valve able to be selectively activated to act on the command members (22) of said feed pump (17) ~~in order~~ to vary the delivery ~~thereof~~ of said feed pump.

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in ~~any claim hereinbefore, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein a pre-loading pump (40) is associated with said circuit (11) and is ~~able to prevent~~ for preventing phenomena of cavitation and sudden variations in pressure inside said circuit (11).

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in ~~any claim hereinbefore, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said feed pump (17) is of the reversible type, and is connected to said motor (21) by ~~means of~~ two symmetrical pipes (19, 20), so that each of said two pipes (19, 20) is ~~able to function~~ functionable either as delivery pipe or return pipe.

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 2 ~~or 4, characterized in that~~ , wherein said command member (22) is mechanically connected to a hydraulic actuator (23) ~~which is kept~~ in an intermediate position of balance by counteracting elastic means (25, 26) arranged inside respective containing chambers (27, 29).

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of said containing chambers (27, 29) is connected to said valve means (35, 37), the activation of said valve means (35, 37) being able to determine the axial displacement of said hydraulic actuator (23) and invert the direction of pumping, or reduce the delivery, of the feed pump (17).

9. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said hydraulic piston (23) is also able to be displaced axially by ~~means of~~ a manual command (43) acting on a distributor valve (45) connected to said containing chambers (27, 29), said valve means (35, 37) being predominant with respect to said distributor valve (45).

10. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in ~~any claim hereinbefore~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein two limit valves (30, 31) are ~~simmetrically~~ symmetrically located parallel to said pipes (19, 20) with a safety function, able to make the oil pumped by the feed pump (17) recirculate when said motor (24) is subjected to excessive forces.

11. (Currently Amended) Laying method for cables, lines, or conductors ~~or suchlike~~ (16), in an apparatus comprising at least a hydraulic circuit (14) provided with a variable delivery feed pump (17) and a motor (24) connected to said feed pump (17) ~~in order~~ to drive laying means (13) for said cables, lines, or conductors ~~and suchlike~~ (16), ~~characterized in that it provides~~ comprising a first step ~~wherein~~ comprising detecting with detection means (32, 33) ~~deteet~~ the value of the pressure of the oil in said hydraulic circuit (14), a second step ~~wherein~~ comprising comparing with comparison means ~~compare~~ said value detected with a pre-determined threshold value, and a third step ~~wherein~~ comprising activating valve means (35, 37) ~~are activated~~ to act on said feed pump (17) ~~so as~~ to reduce the delivery thereof in the event ~~that~~ the pressure detected exceeds the pre-determined threshold value.

12. (Currently Amended) Laying machine for cables, lines, or conductors ~~or suchlike~~ (16), provided with laying means (13) able to simultaneously lay a plurality of said cables, lines, or conductors ~~and suchlike~~ (16), ~~characterized in that it provides~~ comprising a plurality of laying

apparatuses (10) as in ~~any of the claims from 1 to 10 inclusive~~ claim 1, correlated in number to that of said cables, lines, or conductors ~~and suchlike (16)~~ so as to be able to regulate in an independent, and possibly differentiated manner, ~~the~~ individual specific thresholds of intervention.

13. (New) Apparatus as in claim 4, wherein said command member is mechanically connected to a hydraulic actuator ~~which is~~ kept in an intermediate position of balance by counteracting elastic means arranged inside respective containing chambers.

14. (New) Apparatus as in claim 13, wherein at least one of said containing chambers is connected to said valve means, the activation of said valve means being able to determine the axial displacement of said hydraulic actuator and invert the direction of pumping, or reduce the delivery, of the feed pump.

15. (New) Apparatus as in claim 14, wherein said hydraulic piston is also able to be displaced axially by a manual command acting on a distributor valve connected to said containing chambers, said valve means being predominant with respect to said distributor valve.

16. (New) Laying machine for cables, lines, or conductors, provided with laying means able to simultaneously lay a plurality of said cables, lines, or conductors, comprising a plurality of laying apparatuses as in claim 2, correlated in number to that of said cables, lines, or conductors to be able to regulate in an independent, and possibly differentiated manner, the individual specific thresholds of intervention.

17. (New) Laying machine for cables, lines, or conductors, provided with laying means able to simultaneously lay a plurality of said cables, lines, or conductors, comprising a plurality of laying apparatuses as in claim 4, correlated in number to that of said cables, lines or

conductors to be able to regulate in an independent, and possibly differentiated manner, the individual specific thresholds of intervention.

18. (New) Method of claim 11, comprising simultaneously laying a plurality of said cables, lines, or conductors, to regulate in an independent, and possibly differentiated manner, the individual specific thresholds of intervention.